

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1958.



Councillors:

Chairman - Councillor T. H. Coleman, B.E.M., J.P.

Vice-Chairman - - Councillor (Mrs.) A. Robinson.

Councillor M. J. Evans

„ H. J. Reed

„ F. R. Salvage

„ B. C. Edwards

„ F. H. Belcher

„ W. G. Cole

„ (Mrs.) F. Coleman

„ A. E. England

Councillor A. Barton

„ F. Edwards,

B.E.M., J.P.

„ K. Tiley

„ J. L. Hewins

„ J. D. Rees

„ J. Strange

„ A. P. Griffiths

„ F. Matthews.

Officers:

Clerk & Solicitor - - - F. N. V. Meredith

Treasurer & Chief Financial Officer - T. H. Dixon

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. H. V. M. Jones

Engineer & Surveyor - - M. T. Benjamin

Public Health Inspector - Lloyd G. Hale

Deputy Clerk - - - C. Knight

Deputy Treasurer - - - C. Lavin



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
ABERCARN, MON.
1958.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ABERCARN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour of submitting the Annual Report upon the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Administration of your Area for the year, 1958.

Area of Abercarn Urban District Area ...	9,543 acres
Population—Registrar General's Estimate	18,620
Inhabited Houses	5,575
No. of Houses owned by the Council ...	1,428
Rateable Value	1956 £117,866
	1957 £112,620
	1958 £112,690
Product of Penny Rate	1956 £402/0/0
	1957 £405/0/0
	1958 £404/0/0

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

			1956	1957	1958
Males	...	...	159	199	154
Females	...	...	175	156	159
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			334	355	313
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate of 1,000 of the Population ... 16.8

Stillbirths.

	1956	1957	1958
Stillbirth rate of 1,000 of			
Population ...	0.64	0.59	.42

DEATHS.

	1956	1957	1958
Females	100	134	101
Males	100	93	126
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	200	227	227
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

				1958
Live Births ... ..	...	...	...	313
Live birth rate per 1,000 population ...				16.8
Still-births ... ..	...	...	...	8
Still-births rate per 1,000 live and still-births				4.2
Total live and still-births				321
Infant deaths ... ..	...	...	...	5
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—				18.
total ... ..	...	...	...
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—				15.9.
legitimate ... ..	...	...	...
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—				111.
illegitimate ... ..	...	...	...
Neo Natal (first four weeks)				4
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live				
births ... ..	...	...	...	2.87
Maternal deaths (including abortion) ...				Figures
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and				not
still-births ... ..	...	...	...	available

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Number of Deaths under One Year: 5.

	1956	1957	1958
Boys	1	12	2
Girls	9	6	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10	18	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Infantile Mortality Rate ... ..	...	...	15.9

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES.

				0 to 1 week.	1 to 4 weeks.	4 weeks to one year.
All Causes	...	...	...	4	—	1
Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
Influenza	...	...	...	—	—	—
Cerebral Spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
Cancer (Malignant Disease)	...	...	...	—	—	—
Syphilis	...	...	...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	—	—
Bronchitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia (All Forms)	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	—	—
Congenital Debility	...	...	...	—	—	—
Premature Births	...	...	...	3	—	—
Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
Violence	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other Causes	...	...	...	1	—	1

ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISEASES—DEATHS.

			1956	1957	1958
Bronchitis	...	...	22	24	24
Pneumonia	...	...	6	10	7
Other Forms	...	...	3	1	3
Total	...	...	31	35	34

CANCER DEATHS.

			1956	1957	1958
Males	...	...	25	14	17
Females	...	...	14	14	19
Total	...	...	39	28	36

Infectious Diseases.

The principal Notifiable Diseases are Smallpox, Typhoid, Typhus, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Puerperal Fever, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Continued Fever.

There are no deaths from the principal Notifiable Diseases during 1958.

Lung Cancer, Chronic Bronchitis and Smoking.

The Registrar-General recently published the figures of deaths from cancer during 1958 in England and Wales.

These figures show that 50,732 males died of carcinoma. 17,000 or 33 % died of cancer of the lung and bronchus. While 46,000 females died of cancer, only 2,779 died of cancer of the lungs.

These figures present a formidable challenge to the medical profession, a tremendous loss to the country, an economic loss, it can ill afford, especially when one considers this loss is an annual one, and may conceivably increase.

Coupled to these staggering figures are the 1956 death figures of persons who died from chronic bronchitis, when almost 30,000 people died of this dreaded disease. Further almost 500,000 claimants for sickness benefit were made, accounting for over 20 million days lost from work. A truly astronomically economic national loss.

The above figures show the size of the problem to be met, a problem greater than any posed by any other single disease or association of diseases, such as tuberculosis and poliomyelitis.

Members will be aware, that there is no single causative agent, responsible for these diseases, whether it be a single chemical or a mixture, has not definitely been established. However, we do know that cigarettes and atmospheric pollution are two causes, perhaps the main causes. One only has

to read the National Press after severe fog to be aware of the steep rise in the mortality figures both of lung cancer and chronic bronchitis.

Naturally much work has already been done, especially on the research side to equip the profession in its fight against this national scourge. **Although winter fogs are less severe in the valleys than in the towns and industrialised cities the local authority should do more than they are already doing under the Clean Air Act to control and finally prevent Air Pollution.**

I have in mind the smoke control of Colliery stacks, and control of black smoke from other small works, and perhaps the launching of a small smoke control area scheme on the new housing estate at Trinant, this pilot scheme to be followed by a smoke-free area as a further phase, in smoke prevention and the implementation of the provisions of the Clear Air Act, in attempting to reduce the enormous casualty rates created by lung cancer and chronic bronchitis. The evils of these two diseases and their association with cigarette smoking should be done by Educational means, lectures, posters at the schools, and in the Clinics in the Urban Area. Perhaps the manufacturers of cigarettes may do research in the bringing on the market a nicotine-free cigarette preventing the younger members of the population becoming addicted to the habit, much remains to be done, and I am of the opinion that the Government could do more in this matter.

It is gratifying to note that the National Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis Association has now changed its name and is now known as the Chest and Heart Association, and therefore have become virtually pioneers in this research.

To conclude, I am confident that in the next decade or so, the Medical Profession will go a very long way towards controlling these diseases and then finally eliminating them. But nevertheless we must play our part.

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1958.

1957					1958	
M.	F.				M.	F.
134	93	ALL CAUSES	...	...	126	101
		Tuberculosis—Respiratory System	...		—	—
		Tuberculosis—Other Forms	...		—	—
		Syphilitic Diseases	...		—	—
		Diphtheria	...		—	—
		Whooping Cough	...		—	—
		Meningococcal Infections	...		—	—
		Acute Poliomyelitis	...		—	—
		Measles	...		—	—
		Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...		—	—
		Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...		4	9
		Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus			6	—
		Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...		—	3
		Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...		—	2
		Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...		7	5
		Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...		—	—
		Diabetes	...		2	2
		Vascular Lesions of Nervous System			20	17
		Coronary Disease, Angina	...		19	8
		Hypertension of Heart Disease	...		—	—
		Other Heart Disease	...		23	21
		Other Circulatory Disease	...		5	6
		Influenza	...		—	—
		Pneumonia	...		1	6
		Bronchitis	...		17	7
		Other Disease of Respiratory System			2	1
		Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...		—	—
		Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...		—	—

Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	1	—
Hyper-plasia of Prostrate	...	...	2	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	...	...	1	2
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases			7	9
Motor Vehicles Accidents	...	...	3	—
All other Accidents	...	...	6	2
Suicide	...	...	—	1
Homocide and Operations of War	...	—	—	—

ANALYSIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS.

Diseases.	Under 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 plus	Total
Scarlet													
Fever	...	—	—	—	—	3	7	—	—	—	—	—	10
Diphtheria	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	5	10	14	16	17	59	7	2	—	—	—	130
Erysipelas	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping													
Cough	...	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	4
Puerperal													
Pyrexia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia													
Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals	...	6	10	15	16	20	68	7	2	—	—	1	145

Total Number of Infectious Diseases in Age Groups: 145.

**NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
NOTIFIED DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS.**

		1955	1956	1957	1958
Scarlet Fever	...	26	7	1	10
Dysentery	... ..	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	... ..	—	—	—	—
Cerebral Spinal Fever...		—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	... ..	22	4	30	1
Polliomyelitis	... ..	5	—	4	—
Meningitis	... ..	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	... ..	21	14	16	14
Whooping Cough	... ..	99	22	45	4
Erysipelas	... ..	3	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	... ..	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	... ..	6	3	4	2
Paratyphoid Fever	... ..	—	—	—	—
Measles	... ..	374	40	186	130
		<hr/> 556 <hr/>	<hr/> 91 <hr/>	<hr/> 286 <hr/>	<hr/> 161 <hr/>

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

This service continues to be carried out by the County Council.

There were no reported cases of Diphtheria during the year, 1958. If such cases are notified, isolation facilities exist at Bedwellty and Alt-yr-yn Isolation Hospital.

Children under five years of age are inoculated by Assistant Medical Officers from the County Council's Public Health Department at the District Clinics. School children by the Area Medical Officer at the Schools.

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.

Number of children at 31st December who had completed a course of Immunisation—at any time since 1st January, 1937:—

Age at date of final injection (as regards A) or of reinforcing injection (as regards B).

	Under 1 yr.	1-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	Total.
A. Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the Authority's area (including temporary residents during the six months ended 31st December, 1958).	27	181	1	209

B. Number of children who received a secondary (reinforcing) injection (i.e., subsequently to primary immunisation at an earlier age) during the six months ended 31st December, 1958.	—	—	—	—
---	---	---	---	---

Vaccination—Smallpox.

Vaccination for the year totalled 99.

The following table is submitted for your information:—

(I) Number of Persons Vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during the period.

Age at date of vaccination.	Under 1	1—2	2—4	5—14	15 or over	Total
Number vaccinated ...	37	21	7	3	13	81
Number re-vaccinated	—	—	—	4	5	9

(2) Number of Cases Specially Reported During Period
(Age Groups as above).

(a) Generalised Vaccinia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Post-vaccinal Encephalo- myelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Death from complications of vaccination other than (a) or (b) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE ATTENDANCES.

Attendances at the Infant Welfare Centres for the year 1958, are set out in the following table for your information:

Centre	Under 1	1957	1956	1952-55
Cwmcarn ...	180	103	85	71
Newbridge ...	270	148	134	119
Hafodyrynys...	110	59	68	37
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	560	310	287	227
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Centre.	Under 1	Over 1 Under 2.	Over 2 Under 5.	Total.
Cwmcarn ...	1,638	259	192	2,348
Newbridge ...	1,727	326	294	2,748
Hafodyrynys...	690	128	118	1,100
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,055	713	604	6,196
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Attendances at the Cwmcarn Centre ...	2,348
Attendances at the Newbridge Centre ...	2,748
Attendances at the Hafodyrynys Centre ...	1,100
Total Attendances for the year 1958 ...	6,196
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SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS CASES.

			Non-		Total.	
			Pulmonary.			
			Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.		
			M.	F.		
Total Cases on Register						
31-12-57	...	99	87	14	15	215
New Cases—1958	..	5	5	2	1	13
Deaths	...	—	—	—	—	—
Recovered	...	5	—	—	—	—
Removed for Other						
Reasons	...	2	4	—	—	6
Removed from						
District	...	1	1	—	—	2
			—	—	—	—
Total cases on Register						
31-12-58	...	96	87	16	16	215
			—	—	—	—

Annual Return of Food Poisoning Out-Breaks in the Area of the Abercarn Urban District Council for the 1st January, 1958, to 31st December, 1958.

In accordance with Circular 46/49 (Wales) dated 24th May, 1949, Returns as per Memo 188/MED. (Appendix 1) are submitted herewith.

Annual Return of Food Poisoning Notifications (corrected).

Local Authority Abercarn Urban District Council, year 1st January, 1958, to 31st December, 1958.

(2nd) Food Poisoning Notification corrected Return to R.G.

1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Total
1	—	1	—	2

(3rd) Outbreaks due to identified Agents.

Total Outbreaks ... Nil Total Cases ... Nil

(3rd A). Outbreaks due to Salmonella Organisms ... Nil.

(4th). Outbreaks of undiscovered cause.

Total Outbreaks ... 2 Total Cases ... 2

(5th). Outbreaks. Single Cases—2.

Agent Identified	...	...	—
Unknown Cases	...	...	2

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

SUMMARY OF DETAILS.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS. In all cases inquiries were made as to foodstuffs consumed immediately prior to the onset of the symptoms. This enquiry proved of no avail. The symptoms were typical of those associated with food poisoning, but there was no bacteriological confirmation. The affected persons quickly recovered.

AGENT CAUSING OUTBREAKS. No bacteriological confirmation.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE.

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. H. V. M. JONES, M.B. (Lon.), D.P.H. (Liv.).

Public Health Inspector :

LLOYD G. HALE, M.P.H.I.A., M.R.S.H.

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

These services are maintained by the County Council at Newbridge, Cwmcarn, Hafodyrynys and Trinant.

Isolation Hospitals.

There are no Isolation Hospitals in the Council's Area, but arrangements have been made for Infectious Diseases cases to be admitted to the Bedwellty Isolation Hospital, Aberbargoed, and Allt-yr-yn Hospital, Newport.

No cases of Infectious Diseases were required to be isolated during the year, 1958.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

It is now the duty of the County Council to administer this service. This duty is performed by their Area Medical Officers.

Ambulance Service.

Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council now administers the Ambulance Service.

Bacteriological Examination of Pathological Specimens.

Samples of Milk, Ice-Cream, Water and samples from the Council's Swimming Baths were submitted to the Laboratory at the County Hall for examination during the year.

Water Supplies.

The Council is a constituent Authority of the Abertillery and District Water Board. The chief supply is obtained from Gwyne-Fawr Reservoir situated in the Black Mountains, Breconshire; subsidiary supplies are obtained from local sources. The water is of good quality and large supplementary quantities were obtained from Llanover Scheme. The water is sampled by the Board and from time to time by the Local Authority (who submitted samples for bacteriological examination). Where necessary the supplies were chlorinated by the Board's Officials.

Number of Houses with a piped supply	...	5,513
Number of Houses supplied from wells and springs	... ..	62
Approximate population supplied from Public Water Mains, direct to houses	... ..	18,434

During the year inspections were made of Water Supplies and systems generally, where the pressure was reported to be low. Upon inspection it was found that in almost all cases the corrosion of pipes was responsible for inadequate supplies for all domestic purposes. In such cases, Informal Notices and where necessary Statutory Notices under Section 138 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as amended by Section 30 of the Water Act, 1945, were served with complete success.

Sewers and Drains.

The Council is a constituent Member of the Western Valley Sewerage Board. The Council's subsidiary sewers are connected to the Main Trunk Sewer.

Scavenging.

Scavenging is carried out by direct labour twice weekly. The tip is situated in the Valley at Pant-y-reske, Abercarn, and is partially controlled.

Very shortly it is anticipated that the Pant-y-reske tip will be abandoned. In this event tipping will be commenced at Field's Park and conceivably at another site at the northern end of the District.

Refuse Disposal.

Regular inspections in connection with Rodent Control and Fly Breeding have been carried out, and extensive treatments for the elimination of rodents and flies are continually being undertaken.

Rainfall.

The table shows the monthly rainfall, also the day of the month when the greatest fall occurred.

Month	Rainfall.	Greatest fall in 24 hours in inches.	Date.	No. of days with 0.01 ins. or more.
January	... 4.18	.88	4- 1-58	13
February	... 7.26	1.48	7- 2-58	15
March ...	... .75	.45	23- 3-58	4
April ...	... .76	.35	25- 4-58	3
May ...	... 5.14	1.08	22- 5-58	18
June ...	... 4.90	1.25	3- 6-58	19
July ...	... 5.14	1.18	27- 7-58	20
August	... 5.24	1.40	24- 8-58	20
September	... 9.62	1.49	23- 9-58	16
October	... 6.38	1.93	3-10-58	13
November	... 2.22	.67	1-11-58	7
December	... 5.98	.94	19-12-58	13
Total	... 57.57	1.93	3-10-58	161

Rainfall is recorded at Abercarn Cemetery.

Height above Sea Level: 539.9 feet.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Housing.

Housing is a social problem and re-housing a social service, which is of prime national importance.

In this post-war decade the resources of the nation have gradually grown, but have not kept pace with the demands made, until the Government have been forced to limit their expenditure on Housing. Much has been written and twice as much said for and against the ways under which this social problem should be dealt with.

The variety of methods in dealing with housing and diversity of opinion is almost measureless; it is certainly intense and all of course well meaning, while some of the thinking has been muddled and expressions woolly headed. Meanwhile the world continues to revolve and time moves on.

The year 1958 saw the Trinant Housing Scheme under way and at the end of 1958 114 houses were in the course of erection. The first phase will quickly be followed by further phases until some 350 to 500 houses will be completed on this estate.

Meanwhile during the year under review, 27 individual houses were made the subject of Demolition Orders. While a further 27 are in Clearance Areas, confirmation of which can be expected at an early date.

An un auspicious start you may say! Quite so! But do you realise, " the pearl in the oyster " is to be found in the above mentioned tables.

As can be seen almost 600 Mortgages have been taken out with the Authority since 1946, almost half of which have been taken out in the last three years.

How many local authorities can say they lend 90 % of the purchase price or 90 % of the Surveyor's valuation whichever is the lesser, repayments back being made over and up to a maximum of thirty years. This method of making the means available whereby people can own their own home is solid, sound and a positive step forward.

The Council can rightly feel proud of their post-war housing record, over one thousand housing units having been built. Additionally six hundred mortgagees are purchasing homes through the Council.

Perusal of the figures show that every applicant for an Improvement Grant during the year succeeded. The Authority even sympathetically considered applications for loans of half the cost of Improvement Schemes.

During the year several instances occurred whereby the Council provided half the cost of the Improvement Scheme, but also provided by way of mortgage, the other half.

I am indebted to the Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, Mr. T. H. Dixon, F.I.M.T.A., who has kindly supplied me with the above mentioned figures up to March, 1959.

Advances to Borrowers by way of Mortgage as at 31st March, 1959.
Analysis to Amounts Outstanding.

H.A. 1925.	H.A. 1949.	S.D.A. Acts.	Total Nos.	Outstanding Balances.	Total Amounts.	H.A. 1925.	H.A. 1949.	S.D.A. Acts.
—	4	3	7	Under £50	213	—	121	92
—	13	7	20	£50— £100	1,585	—	1,038	547
—	67	50	117	£100— £250	20,662	—	12,184	8,478
—	104	73	177	£250— £500	63,577	—	36,204	27,373
—	73	38	111	£500— £750	68,373	—	45,180	23,187
—	49	13	62	£750—£1,000	53,460	—	42,351	11,109
—	51	13	64	£1,000—£1,500	77,749	—	62,175	15,574
—	20	5	25	£1,500—£2,000	41,800	—	33,292	8,508
—	1	—	1	Over £2,000	2,005	—	2,005	—
—	382	202	584	Total outstanding 31-3-59.	329,424	—	234,556	94,868

STATISTICS AS TO ADVANCES TO BORROWERS BY WAY OF MORTGAGE

Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts.

	Number.	Amount Advanced. £
Originally advanced to 31-3-58...	318 ...	141,996
Advances during year ...	26 ...	11,879
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total as at 31st March, 1959	344 ...	153,875
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Housing Act, 1925.</i>		
Originally advanced ...	23 ...	14,112
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Housing Act, 1949.</i>		
Originally advanced to 31-3-58...	325 ...	220,424
Advances during year ...	83 ...	52,141
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	408 ...	£272,565
	<hr/>	<hr/>

SUMMARY.

<i>Original Advances.</i>		<i>Outstanding 31st March, 1958.</i>	
Number.	Amount. £	Number.	Outstanding. £
344 ...	153,857	S.D. Acqn. Acts ... 202 ...	94,868
23 ...	14,112	Housing Act, 1925 — ...	—
408 ...	272,565	Housing Act, 1949 382 ...	234,956
	<hr/>		<hr/>
775 ...	440,552	584 ...	329,824
	<hr/>		<hr/>

Improvement Grants.

Twenty-two applications were approved for Improvement Grant in order that the applicants, who were owner occupiers in all cases, to have modern facilities. such as:—

An internal or accessible water closet.

A piped hot water supply.

Installation of bathroom (where none at present exist).

Extensions or enlargements to existing kitchenettes, livingrooms, or extra bedroom accommodation, etc., as under the Housing Act, 1949.

Improvement Grants under the above-mentioned Act.

(a) Number of Improvement Grants, 1958-59	22
(b) Total number of Improvement Grants, 1949-1958 inclusive	84
(c) Amount of Improvement Grants, 1958-59	£4,680
(d) Total amount of Improvement Grants 1949-58 inclusive	£16,341

Improvement Loans under the above-mentioned Act.

Facilities are made available under the Housing Act, 1949, whereby the Local Authority have power to loan money for the repair of houses, within the Urban Area, which are outside the province of the Improvement Sections:—

(1) Number of Improvement Grants, 1958-59	10
(2) Total amount of Improvement Loans 1958	£1,835
(3) Number of Improvement Loans, 1958, inclusive	26
(4) Total amount of Improvement Loans 1949-58 inclusive	£4,678

Housing.

Number of Dwelling Houses inspected ...	819
Re-inspected	215
Number of premises at which repairs and im- provements have been carried out	219
Warning Notices served	416
Remedied without Notice	197
Statutory Notices served	37
Statutory Notices complied with	37
Statutory Notices not complied with	Nil
Number of Houses in the Area	5,575
Number of Houses owned by the Council ...	1,428
Number of Dwelling Houses erected during the year by the Council	Nil
Number of New Houses erected privately in the year 1958	12

Drainage.

Drainage stoppages dealt with, New Drainage connections, improvements and repairs ...	673
Disinfections carried out	36
Disinfestations carried out	15

The following statement is in the form prescribed by the Ministry :—

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected during the year for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ... 655

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 896

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 Nil

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose Nil

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 5

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in respects reasonably fit for habitation 219

(2) Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices 219

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit for occupation in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 389

3 Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceeding under Section 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1957 Nil

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repair ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice ...	Nil
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	
Number of houses under Circular 2845	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	37
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of notice	37
(a) By Owners	37
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Section 16 & 17 of the Housing Act, 1957:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	31
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3

(d) Proceeding under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or room having been rendered fit	Nil
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4. Housing Act, 1957—Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	48
--	----

2. Number of families dwelling therein	...	113
3. Number of persons dwelling therein	...	414
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... ..	Nil
(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... ..	8
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases		55
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	... ..	Nil

INSPECTION OF MILK AND OTHER FOODS

Milk and Dairies.

Certain registration* and licensing duties remain with the Local Authority in addition to the supervision of distributors and dairy premises, and the taking of samples for bacteriological and biological examination.

Additionally, samples were taken and tested for keeping quality. (Methylene Blue Reduction Tests). The Phosphatase Test is undertaken to ascertain whether the milk has been properly Pasteurised.

Number of Registered Distributors	... ..	37
Number of Premises registered as Dairies	...	37
Number of Dealers licensed to use the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	... ..	19
Number of Dealers licensed to use the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	... ..	37
Number of Dealers licensed to use the Special Designation "Sterilised"	... ..	14
Number of Supplementary Licences granted	...	4

During the year milk was continually sampled and taken to the Public Health Laboratory, Clytha Square, Newport. Canteens at the schools, collieries and interceptions of the re-

tailer took place prior to final delivery, while even the lorry drivers were intercepted and samples procured.

In no case was the Phosphatase or Methylene Blue Reduction Tests not complied with.

Food Hygiene.

At last, one can report some progress in this most important field of Public Health.

Several brewery companies have at last decided to spend considerable sums of money in renovating and replanning local inns.

The result has to be seen to be believed. Prior to modernisation these inns, almost rivalled the nearby Roman township of Caerleon. No! No! No! upon quick reflection the Romans could teach us many things in regard to Hygiene in general.

I am forced to admit, reluctantly, that the inhabitants of the Urban Area accept a lower standard of Food Hygiene than the inhabitants of nearby towns and cities. Why this is so completely defeats me. The people can and could do much to help in this matter. Yet they do nothing, I wonder is it, "Reticence," a natural reluctance to make a fuss. After all we only get the standard we want. We have small front room shops, often owned by old age pensioners, in some cases widowers or widows.

These shops sell a conglomeration of articles that would rival our National Chain Stores for variety. Badly over-stocked by owners anxious to please the customers. Badly over-stocked by the ever pressing enthusiastic oracular Welsh sales representatives. Lacking in room, storage space, always opened, sometimes I think they rival a famous London place of entertainment who advertise "We Never Close." One can but observe newspapers covering over sweets such as jellied fruits slowly melting in the sun, yellowed with age, head-lined with imperishable memory: "Matthews defeats Bolton."

Closing hours! "never heard of them," they try and persuade you they do their friends next door or in the same terrace a favour. We are not harming anyone, we have no staff. it's only the old girl and me is the oft repeated excuse.

How about the Food Hygiene Regulations, one can see the hurt expression in his or her eyes. The regulations are gone through, one by one, until we come to constant supply of hot water together with wash hand basin, why the reply is advanced, if we have to fit that "we may as well shut up shop, let the Government keep us." I realised I was getting nowhere, defensively I suggested "will you think about it then?" the affable reply, "ay mun" Welsh for "yes boy."

Food Hygiene and the Shops Act is conveniently forgotten for the time being. However, these moral defeats do not last. Next time I pick a dark, wet, cold winter's night, if I cannot do some good tonight, at least the night is dark, dark enough to hide any and all embarrassment I may suffer.

I reach my destination, my point of no return, one thousand feet up on a Welsh mountainside, I get out of the car soon convincing myself, "I must be mad." why the Members of Parliament, who passed the Shops Act and its provisions regarding Closing Hours, should be up here, not me."

I swear all the Manchester rain is being emptied on this village this night. "There is nothing gentle about the rain falling upon this unlit Welsh village, therefore there will be no strain upon the quality of mercy shown.

I intercept one lady, telling her, who I am, rather needlessly, and what I am doing.

The lady quickly confirms "you must be mad, I thought you dealt with Council Houses. Why you must like work, a day in the pit would soon cure you, boyo! Fancy trying to stop me buying the old man's supper. Is this what we pay our rates for? Why don't you get us street lights, not come around snooping." She pulls her plastic mackintosh closer around her and stalks off "like the ghost of Falstaff" into the inky blackness of the November night.

With morale like an Italian prisoner of war, I approach two more customers. The man states he bought vapour rub for the little baby's chest. Thinks Abercarn is becoming like Russia. While the last explains, we have unexpected visitors, just nipped out for a few things for supper. Look here, Inspector, if you want to do good, come over the house and see the rain coming in beneath the door. Inspection soon

shows the weathering board has become swollen and detached from the base of the door. I make a note of the complaint and promise it will be reported and attended to. Refusing to accept a cup of tea, I am too wet to sit down. Back to the shop, I walk, only to find the owner has been told I am about. All is in darkness.

I drive to the nearest inn, and call, "double rum and blackcurrant," slinking away into the corner to ponder on the Shops Act, Closing Hours, etc. "Are we getting like Russia?" or is it Parliamentary beureaucracy gone mad? Why doesn't Parliament give us something to work, not an almost inoperable Act. I sip my drink slowly and muse over the thought, I wonder if Parliament years ago, foresaw that some Welsh ladies who use the shop as a food store must be catered for.

Why you'll never shut shops, boy, why perhaps that shop up the road has re-opened because someone knocks the side door. "Please can you spare mam a baby's soother, we have lost the other one!" On come the lights, a quick service is rendered. No one knows, or really cares, only me. The Landlord brings me back to earth, with the cry "Time, Please." I wonder should shop-keepers cry "Time, Please!" is that the answer?

Meat and Other Foods.

A large quantity of tinned and other foods were inspected during the year. The following articles were condemned as being unfit for human consumption:—

145 jars paste.	4 gross liquorice pellets.
4 nut milk bars chocolate.	18 lbs. cheese.
43 tins tomatoes.	1 jar chicken spread.
5 tins oranges.	6 tins prunes.
2 packets rice.	1 jar orange jelly.
1 jar shrimps.	41 tins ham.
18 bottles sauce.	48 nut bars.
6 tins crisps.	3 tins plums.

2 tins pineapples.	255 lbs. cooked ham.
30 tins luncheon meat.	3 tins pork in juice.
2 tins broad beans.	4 sponges.
1 beef steak.	116 lbs. apples.
24 tins beef loaf.	9 tins pork brawn.
2 tins crab.	2 tins beef & vegetables.
84 lbs. part hind beef.	528 lbs. beef (joints).
42 tins corned beef.	7 tins pears.
12 tins apricots.	2 tins strawberries.
30 tins stewed steak.	26 tins milk.
14 tins salmon.	73 lbs. corned beef.
4 tins tongue.	39 tins peas.
3 tins veal.	18 lbs. veal.
36 packets salt.	28 lbs. butter.
36 packets peas.	24 crunchie bars.
108 cartons biscuits.	24½ lbs. biscuits.
72 tins chicken loaves.	196 packets of flour.
1 tin meat pudding.	6 lbs. tea.
56 lbs. rice.	48 "Mars" bar chocolate.
36 macaroni caseroles.	2 lb. tobacco.
12 boxes chocolates.	72 tins meat soup.
48 tins chicken soup.	50 tins beans.
4 tins grapefruit.	4 tins beefex.
14 tins chopped pork.	1 lamb chop.
187 lbs. bacon.	44 lbs. sausage.
10 tins peaches.	

The following is the number of animals slaughtered and the amount of meat and offal condemned as being unfit for human consumption:—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Slaughtered ...	341	84	66	1,648	852
Number Inspected ...	341	84	66	1,648	852
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole Carcases con- demned	—	1	—	3	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	116	46	—	645	19
Percentage of number affected diseases other than Tuberculosis ...	34.01	55.9	—	39.3	2.34
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole Carcases con- demned	—	1	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ is con- demned for Tuberculosis	29	9	—	—	14
Percentage of the num- ber inspected with Tuberculosis	8.5	10.7	—	—	1.6

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Report for 12 months ended 31st March, 1958.

	Type of Property.				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses including Council Houses.	All other (including Business Premises).	Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3).	Agricultural.
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	4	5,575	820	6,189	49
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification ...	2	103	42	147	1
(b) Survey under the Act	2	417	54	473	26
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose) ...	1	82	12	95	4
III. Total inspections carried out — including re-inspections (To be completed only if figures are readily available).	9	509	36	554	4
IV. Number of properties inspected (in Sect. II (which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats (Major) ...	1	13	1	14	1
(Minor) ...	—	149	21	170	4
(b) Mice (Major) ...	—	7	2	9	2
(Minor) ...	1	11	20	32	7
V. Number of Infested properties (in Sect. IV) treated by the L.A. ... (Figures should not exceed those given by Sect. IV).	2	161	35	193	14

Type of Property.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses.	All other (in- cluding Business Premises).	Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3).	Agricul- ture.
VI. Total treatments carried out — including re-treatments (To be completed only if figures are readily available).					
					Figures not available
VII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
VIII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing) ...	—	—	—	—	—
IX. Legal proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
X. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	—	—	—	—	—

The table as set out above is a complete Report for the twelve months ending 31st December, 1958. Additionally, two sewer treatments were carried out in February/March and September/October of 1958. The following are the figures:—

	No. of manholes		Bait taken Poison		
	treated	Prebait	small	good	Total
February/March ...	284	78	24	57	159
September/October	298	92	16	49	157

All individual complaints during the year, were dealt with, which entailed several visits by the Rodent Operator to one single reported case.

Factories and Workshops.

Total number of factories in the Area ...	8
Total number of workshops in the Area ...	22
	—
Total	30
	—

These factories and workshops are periodically inspected in order that they comply with the Factories Act, 1937.

Number of Defects.

Particulars	Referred No. of to H.M. Prosecutions			
	Found	Remedied	Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ...	4	4	—	—
Want of Ventilation ...	2	2	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation :				
Other Nuisances ...	5	5	—	—
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective...	6	6	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
	17	17	—	—

Bakehouses.

A survey was undertaken to ascertain whether these premises were of the standard required by the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. In all cases, the owners or managers were interviewed and where required the necessary improvements were made. However, nearly all Bakers have ceased making bread, and now purchase it off the combined firms.

Fish Fryers.

Also, a survey was undertaken to ascertain as to whether these premises were of the standard required by the Food and

Drugs Act, 1955. In all cases, the owners or managers were interviewed and where required, the necessary improvements were made.

Licensed Slaughtermen.

Several applications were received and granted by the Council during the year.

H. V. M. JONES, M.B. (London), D.P.H. (Liverpool)
Medical Officer of Health

LLOYD G. HALE, M.P.H.I.A., M.R.S.H.,
Public Health Inspector



